

COUNTRY DATA: GABON: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Until recently, only two autocratic presidents had ruled Gabon since its independence from France in 1960. The recent president of Gabon, El Hadj Omar BONGO Ondimba - one of the longest-serving heads of state in the world - had dominated the country's political scene for four decades. President BONGO introduced a nominal multiparty system and a new constitution in the early 1990s. However, allegations of electoral fraud during local elections in 2002-03 and the presidential elections in 2005 exposed the weaknesses of formal political structures in Gabon. President BONGO died in June 2009. New elections in August 2009 brought Ali Ben BONGO, son of the former president, to power. Despite political conditions, a small population, abundant natural resources, and considerable foreign support have helped make Gabon one of the more prosperous and stable African countries. In January 2010, Gabon assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2010-11 term.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Western Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean at the Equator, between Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea.
Area	267,667 sq km
Climate	Tropical; always hot, humid.
Natural Resources	Petroleum, natural gas, diamond, niobium, manganese, uranium, gold, timber, iron ore, hydropower.
Total Renewable Water Resources	164 cu km (1987)
Freshwater Withdrawal	0.12 cu km/yr (50%/8%/42%)
Natural Hazards	N/A
Environmental Issues	Deforestation; poaching.

PEOPLE

Population	1,545,255
Ethnic Groups	Bantu tribes, including four major tribal groupings (Fang, Bapounou, Nzebi, Obamba); other Africans and Europeans, 154,000, including 10,700 French and 11,000 persons of dual nationality.
Religions	Christian 55%-75%, animist, Muslim less than 1%.

Languages	French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi.
Literacy Rate	63.2%
Major Infectious Diseases	Degree of risk: very high Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever Vectorborne disease: malaria and chikungunya Water contact disease: schistosomiasis Animal contact disease: rabies (2009) HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate: 5.9% (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic; multiparty presidential regime
Independence	17 August 1960 (from France)
Constitution	Adopted 14 March 1991
Legal System	Based on French civil law system and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction.
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Cocoa, coffee, sugar, palm oil, rubber; cattle; okoume (a tropical softwood); fish.
Industries	Petroleum extraction and refining; manganese, gold; chemicals, ship repair, food and beverages, textiles, lumbering and plywood, cement.
Import commodities	Machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, construction materials.
Import Partners	France 32.21%, US 7.92%, China 7.02%, Belgium 4.99%, Italy 4.81%, Cameroon 4.56%, Netherlands 4.35% (2009).
Export Commodities	Crude oil 70%, timber, manganese, uranium.
Export Partners	Russia 30.62%, US 16.56%, China 15.87%, France 4.28% (2009).
Per Capita GDP	\$13,900 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	N/A

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Gabon

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	61.3 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	7.5 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$12,747
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	16.1%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	53.8%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	34.7%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	71.1%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	82.9%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	86%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	4.8%
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	NA

Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	NA
Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	40%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	60%
Population without Access to Water (%)	13%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	67%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.14%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	100
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	86%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	3.9%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	1.3%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	5.9%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$37.60
Population without Electricity (%)	62.1%

Gabon's Public Expenditure

